

Application Serial No. 10/583,881  
Reply to Office Action of January 21, 2011

PATENT  
Docket: CU-4891

### REMARKS

In the Office Action dated January 21, 2011, claims 7, 11, 14 and 15 are pending and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The Applicant asserts that the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome by amendment and/or are traversed by argument below.

In the Claims, please amend claim 11 to remove the term "burnt". Claims 16-19 have been newly added. Herein, support for the amendment to the claim (s) as filed should be found in, for example, the recitation (s) of claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11 as originally filed and the descriptions at lines 3 to 5 on page 11, lines 8 to 9 on page 13, line 29 on page 14 to line 2 on page 15, lines 21 to 27 on page 15, and line 27 on page 17 to line 1 on page 18 of the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. The amendments to the claims can be viewed in the Amendments section of this paper beginning on page 2.

The Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 06-142638 (Satoru et al.), in view of U.S. 6,470,898 (Kamo) and Smook (Handbook for Pulp and Paper Technologists).

Regarding claims 7 and 11 the Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that the claims are non-obvious and allowable.

As the invention according to our proposed claim 7 is compared with the disclosures of Satoru et al., Kamo, and Smook, at least features of "washing the separated paper piece with water in a rotary drum-type washing device so as to eliminate a gypsum component adhering to the paper piece from the paper piece" and "dewatering the water-washed paper piece wherein the step of dewatering the paper piece comprises squeezing and dewatering of the water -washed paper piece by one of a roller, a centrifugal machine, and a squeezing machine" as recited in claim 7 is not disclosed or suggested in any of Satoru et al., Kamo, and Smook, in whole or in combination.

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As the invention according to our proposed claim 11 is compared with the disclosures of Satoru et al., Kamo, and Smook, at least the features "a rotary drum-type washing device configured to wash the separated paper piece with water so as to eliminate a gypsum component adhering to the paper piece from the paper piece, and a device configured to dewater the water-washed paper piece" and "the dewatering device is a device configured to squeeze and dewater the water-washed paper piece by one of a roller, a centrifugal machine, and a squeezing machine" as recited in amended claim 11, are not disclosed or suggested in any of Satoru et al., Kamo, and Smook.

In particular, a "paper piece" as is disclosed in, for example, paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. is actually a "paper piece with a size of 4-8 mm", and accordingly, does not correspond to "paper stock" as is disclosed in, for example, claim 1 of Kamo. Hence, it would not have been obvious for those skilled in the art to apply a "paper piece" as is disclosed in, for example, paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. to a "paper stock cleaning apparatus" as is disclosed in, for example, claim 1 of Kamo, at the time of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, if a "paper piece" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. could be applied to a "paper stock cleaning apparatus" as is disclosed in claim 1 of Kamo, one obtained by cleaning a "paper piece" as is disclosed in, for example, paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. on a "paper stock cleaning apparatus" as is disclosed in, for example, claim 1 of Kamo would be a paper piece such as a "paper piece with a size of 4-8 mm" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al., and accordingly, does not correspond to any of "papermaking stock" as is disclosed at line 5 in the right column on page 228 of Smook, and "fibers" as are disclosed, for example, at line 8 in the right column on page 228 of Smook. It would clearly not have been obvious for those skilled in the art to apply one obtained by cleaning a "paper piece" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. on a "paper stock cleaning apparatus" as is disclosed in claim 1 of Kamo to a "paper machine" as is disclosed at line 26 in the left column on page 228 of Smook, at the time of the claimed invention.

The Applicant notes, therefore, that a discussion based on an incorrect technical

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understanding that a "paper piece" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. corresponds to a portion of pulp, which is provided at lines 18 to 19 on page 2 and line 5 on page 3 of the office action, is misplaced.

Therefore, the invention according to any of our proposed claims 7 and 11 should not have been obvious from the disclosures of Satoru et al., Kamo, and Smook for those skilled in the art at the time of the claimed invention. None of the references disclose or suggest the features of amended claims 7 and 11. The Applicant submits that the claims, 7 and 11, are therefore, non-obvious and allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

Claims 14 and 15 are also rejected as being obvious over under 35 U. S. C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Satoru et al. in view of Kamo and Smook and further in view of LeBlanc et al. (US 5,255,540).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that the claims are non-obvious and patentable.

At least the features of "washing the separated paper piece with water in a rotary drum-type washing device so as to eliminate a gypsum component adhering to the paper piece from the paper piece" and "dewatering the water-washed paper piece wherein the step of dewatering the paper piece comprises squeezing and dewatering of the water-washed paper piece by one of a roller, a centrifugal machine, and a squeezing machine" as recited in claim 7, from which claim 14 depends, is not disclosed or suggested in any of Satoru et al., Kamo, Smook, and LeBlanc et al., in whole or in combination.

At least the features of "a rotary drum-type washing device configured to wash the separated paper piece with water so as to eliminate a gypsum component adhering to the paper piece from the paper piece, and a device configured to dewater the water-washed paper piece" and "the dewatering device is a device configured to squeeze and dewater the water-washed paper piece by one of a roller, a centrifugal machine, and a

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squeezing machine" as recited in amended claim 11, from which claim 15 depends, is not disclosed or suggested in any of Satoru et al., Kamo, Smook, and LeBlanc et al., in whole or in combination.

In particular, a "paper piece" as may be disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. is a "paper piece with a size of 4-8 mm" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al., and accordingly, does not correspond to "paper stock" as is disclosed in claim 1 of Kamo or "pulp fiber" as is disclosed in claim 1 or 10 of LeBlanc et al. Hence, it is not obvious for those skilled in the art to apply a "paper piece" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. to a "paper stock cleaning apparatus" as is disclosed in claim 1 of Kamo, or a "wood pulp fiber washing device" as is disclosed in claim 1 of LeBlanc et al. or a "pressurized dynamic pulp washer" as is disclosed in claim 10 of LeBlanc et al., at the time of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, if a "paper piece" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. could be applied to a "paper stock cleaning apparatus" as is disclosed in claim 1 of Kamo, or a "wood pulp fiber washing device" as is disclosed in claim 1 of LeBlanc et al. or a "pressurized dynamic pulp washer" as is disclosed in claim 10 of LeBlanc et al., one obtained by cleaning a "paper piece" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. on a "paper stock cleaning apparatus" as is disclosed in claim 1 of Kamo, or one obtained by washing a "paper piece" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. on a "wood pulp fiber washing device" as is disclosed in claim 1 of LeBlanc et al. or a "pressurized dynamic pulp washer" as is disclosed in claim 10 of LeBlanc et al. would be a paper piece such as a "paper piece with a size of 4-8 mm" as is clearly disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al., and accordingly, cannot correspond to any of "papermaking stock" as is disclosed at line 5 in the right column on page 228 of Smook and "fibers" as are disclosed at line 8 in the right column on page 228 of Smook. Hence, it should not have been obvious for those skilled in the art to apply one obtained by cleaning a "paper piece" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. on a "paper stock cleaning apparatus" as is disclosed in claim 1 of Kamo or one obtained by washing a "paper piece" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. on a "wood

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pulp fiber washing device" as is disclosed in claim 1 of LeBlanc et al. or a "pressurized dynamic pulp washer" as is disclosed in claim 10 of LeBlanc et al. to a "paper machine" as is disclosed, for example, at line 26 in the left column on page 228 of Smook, at the time of the claimed invention.

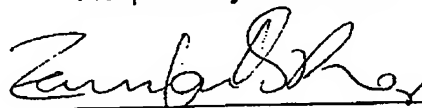
The Applicant submits, therefore, that a discussion based on an incorrect technical understanding that a "paper piece" as is disclosed in paragraph 0008 of Satoru et al. corresponds to a portion of pulp, which is provided at lines 18 to 19 on page 2 and line 5 on page 3 of the office action, is misplaced.

At least for these reasons, the invention according to claims 14 and 15 are not been obvious from the disclosures of Satoru et al., Kamo, Smook, and LeBlanc et al., in whole or in combination, for those skilled in the art at the time of the claimed invention. The Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are non-obvious and requests withdrawal of the rejections.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The Applicant respectfully contends that all conditions of patentability are met in the pending claims. The Applicant respectfully submits that this application should be in condition for allowance. Furthermore, the Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,



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